

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 EPA-04 OES-07 /034 W
-----124929 061628Z /46

R 032215Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6685

UNCLAS BOGOTA 2058

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: BENC, CO
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: POLLUTION CONTROL AND PAPER MILLS

REF: A) 77 STATE 301368; B) BOGOTA 690

1. EMBASSY HAS CONDUCTED A SURVEY AMONG DIFFERENT COLOMBIAN FIRMS PRODUCING PAPER, PAPER PULP OR CARDBOARD IN THE COUNTRY TO TRY TO DETERMINE THE POLLUTION PROBLEMS WHICH THEY ARE CONFRONTING AND THE PROGRAMS WHICH THEY INTEND TO IMPLEMENT TO SOLVE THIS PROGRAM. MOST OF THESE MILLS ARE CONFRONTING WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WITH THE ABSENCE OF CLEAR LEGISLATION ON POLLUTION MATTERS, THE MILLS TRY EITHER TO MINIMIZE THEIR PROBLEMS OR WAIT UNTIL A DEFINITE LAW IS ENFORCED. THE PROPOSED SANITATION CODE (LAW 43) WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE PASSED THROUGH CONGRESS DURING 1977, HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED AND IT HAS AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE NOW.

2. THERE ARE 24 MILLS IN THE COUNTRY PRODUCING PULP, PAPER, OR CARDBOARD, THREE OF THESE MILLS PRODUCED OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COLOMBIAN PRODUCTION: CARTON DE COLOMBIA (30 PERCENT), PRODUCTORA DE PAPELES-PROPAL (54 PERCENT), PRODUCTORA DE CELULOSA COLOMBIANA-PROCECOLSA (7 PERCENT). OTHER SMALL FACTORIES PRODUCE SHORT PAPER PULP FIBER FOR THEIR OWN USE. SOME OF THE POLLUTION PROBLEMS CONFRONTED BY THE ABOVE MILLS AND OTHER SMALLER MILLS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

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A. PRODUCTORA DE PAPELES S.A. - PROPAL (SUBSIDIARY OF W.R. GRACE AND CO. AND INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO., BOTH OF NEW YORK) INSTALLED A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF CHEMICAL RECOVERIES AND ELECTROSTATIC FILTERS, BUT STILL HAS SOME MINOR AIR AND WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

B. CARTON DE COLOMBIA S.A. (SUBSIDIARY OF CONTAINER CORPORATION OF AMERICA, CHICAGO ILLINOIS) HAS TWO MILLS, ONE IN CALI AND

ANOTHER ONE IN BARRANQUILLA. THEY HAVE WATER AND AIR POLLUTION PROBLEMS. THEY HAVE INSTALLED SOME EQUIPMENT, BUT STILL HAVE MORE TO INSTALL. THEY PLAN TO DO THIS VERY SLOWLY.

C. CARTONES AMERICA. THIS FIRM PRODUCES PAPER BAGS, KRAFT LINER AND CORRUGATED CARDBOARD. IT ALSO MANUFACTURES BAGASSE PAPER PULP FIBER. THE FIRM IS LOCATED IN CALI. IT HAS WATER AND AIR POLLUTION PROBLEMS. IT WILL ACQUIRE AIR FILTERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE (TWO YEARS). IT HAS INSTALLED WATER PURIFICATION AND RECYCLING SYSTEMS AND WILL BE ACQUIRING SOME OTHER EQUIPMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

D. COLOMBIANA KIMBERLY. LOCATED IN MEDELLIN, IT PRODUCES CIGARETTE PAPER FOR COLOMBIAN AND THE ANDEAN COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES. IT ALSO MANUFACTURES SHORT FIBER PAPER PULP. IT HAS WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS, AND DOES NOT PLAN ANY CORRECTIVE ACTION AT THIS TIME UNLESS POLLUTION LEGISLATION FORCES THEM TO DO IT.

E. PRODUCTORA DE PAPELES S.A. - PROCECOLSA. LOCATED IN MEDELLIN, THIS FIRM PRODUCES LONG WOOD FIBER PAPER PULP. THEY HAVE WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS. THEY DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY ACTION NOW, DUE TO LACK OF APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION AND PENDING PLANS FOR EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION.

F. PAPELES SCOTT DE COLOMBIA. WITH A FACTORY IN THE CITY OF MEDELLIN, THIS FIRM PRODUCES TISSUES, NAPKINS AND TOILET PAPER. IT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS. IT INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS WITHIN TWO YEARS.

G. COLOMBIANA DE CARTONES LTDA. LOCATED IN CALI, THIS FIRM PRODUCES PAPER PULP AND CARDBOARD. IT IS PLANNING THE ACQUISITION OF WATER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT FOR A SECOND MILL WHICH WILL BE INSTALLED SHORTLY.

H. COMPANIA PROMOTORA PAPELERA COLOMBIANA LTDA - PAPELCOL. THIS IS AN ENTITY CREATED BY THE GOC'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (IFI), SEVERAL REGIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS, VARIOUS MAJOR GRAPHIC ARTS FIRMS, A FEW PAPER MILLS AND SUGAR CANE MILLS. IT IS ESSENTIALLY A PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PAPER MILL IN CALI FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BETWEEN 70,000 MT TO 80,000 MT OF PAPER A YEAR WITH AN ESTIMATED INVESTMENT OF US \$100 MILLION. THE PREFEASIBILITY STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND THE PROJECT IS NOW IN ITS FEASIBILITY STAGE. THIS PROJECT WAS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN BOGOTA 9085 OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1977.

I. OTHER MILLS. MOST OF THE OTHER PAPER MILLS IN COLOMBIA UTILIZE SCRAP PAPER WHICH THEY RECONVERT TO PRODUCE MAINLY CARDBOARD AND WRAPPING PAPER. ALL OF THESE OTHER MILLS WHICH WERE CONTACTED

ADMITTED HAVING SOME MINOR WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS BUT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY ACTION, UNLESS THEY ARE FORCED TO DO IT BY LAW.

3. EMBASSY WILL BE DOING A THOROUGH REVISION OF THE MARKET STUDY FOR POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT BY THE END OF THIS FY (SEPTEMBER 1978).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BOGOTA02058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-0991
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803112/aaaadqsa.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a9c0bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 301368, 78 BOGOTA 690
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3134114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: POLLUTION CONTROL AND PAPER MILLS
TAGS: BENC, CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a9c0bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014